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MONTSERRAT.

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Montserrat

1967 to 1972

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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Gt. Brit. Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

MONTSERRAT

Report for the years 1967 to 1972

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1974

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PART I

General Review

Constitutional

There were no major constitutional changes during the period. The constitution in force since 1960, when Montserrat became a Colony in its own right, following the breaking up of the Leeward Islands Federation, provides for the execution of government through a Governor appointed by The Queen and an Executive and a Legislative Council. The Executive Council is presided over by the Governor and there are two ex-officio members, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary, the Chief Minister and three other Ministers.

The Governor appoints as Chief Minister the elected member of the Legislative Council most likely to command a majority in the Legislature. The other Ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. Ministers are assigned responsibilities including finance except internal security, the audit of public accounts and the public service.

The Legislative Council is presided over by the Governor and comprises, besides the Governor, two official members, seven elected members and one nominated unofficial member. There is a Deputy President elected from within the Council. Elections are by universal adult suffrage.

At a General Election in December 1970, Mr. P. Austin Bramble led his Progressive Democratic Party to total victory winning all seven constituency seats, defeating Mr. William Bramble and the Montserrat Labour Party which had been in office since 1960.

Economic

The growth which started in 1963/64 continued but was not maintained in the agricultural sector. Lack of regular shipping to carry vegetable and fruit exports, poor weather and declining interests in farming among the younger elements of the population, who found money easier to earn in the building and service industries, were the main causes. Domestic exports in 1967 were valued at EC $52,643; climbing to EC $276,984 in 1970: but in 1972 the value had fallen back to EC $121,917.

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Real Estate development expanded satisfactorily at a rate which was neither too fast nor too slow. Over 250 new homes were completed providing employment both during building and afterwards.

Though by the standards of other Caribbean islands the volume of tourism was small it continued to increase and taken together with construction it was one of the two main industries: tourism being closely related to real estate construction around the Belham River Valley Golf Course and in the attractive heavily wooded areas nearby.

The activities of the British Development Division in the Caribbean which administered British Development Aid and provided expert advice in many areas led to a considerable improvement of the infrastructure which was particularly obvious in the provision and improvement of roads and essential buildings.

The Montserrat Government operated a cotton ginnery and a cement block making machine. Private enterprises operated two cement block making machines, a rum distillery, two soft drink factories, a glass-fibre panel and tile factory, a liqueur distillery, a printing works, two furniture factories, a bay rum factory, quarry operations and a tyre recapping business.

External Communications

A 3,400 feet surfaced runway at the Blackburne Airport was opened on 16th August 1967. Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT) maintained on average a twice daily service between Montserrat and Antigua and a five days a week service between Montserrat and Nevis and St. Kitts. In 1967 only 50 landings were made by Avro (Hawker Siddeley 748) almost all other traffic being single or double engine light aircraft. In 1972 there were 871 landings by the larger aircraft with a consequent increase in the number of passengers carried.

There was little or no variation in shipping movements. In 1962 22,912 tons of cargo were landed and 639 tons loaded: in 1972 29,977 tons were landed and 329 tons loaded.

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PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE end of year estimates of population were as follows:

	1967	*1968*	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
Males	6,989	7,280	7,152	5,524	5,742	6,284
Females	7,479	7,409	7,375	6,146	6,241	6,621
TOTAL	14,468	14,689	14,527	11,670	11,983	12,905

The mean population and vital rates were:

Year	1 *Mean Population*	2 *Birth Rate*	2 *Death Rate*	3 *Rate of Natural Increase*
1967	14,396	25.22	10.28	14.94
1968	14,578	22.09	7.89	14.20
1969	14,608	18.07	9.45	8.62
1970	13,098	23.06	9.23	13.83
1971	11,827	22.74	10.39	12.35
1972	12,444	25.55	11.57	13.98

1. Average of two end of year population figures.
2. Per 1,000 of mean population.
3. Birth rate minus death rate.

Arrivals and Departures

	Arrivals		*Departures*	
Year	*Sea*	*Air*	*Sea*	*Air*
1967	4,712	11,756	2,163	9,834
1968	4,643	12,398	4,894	12,141
1969	4,272	15,816	4,436	15,940
1970	3,717	15,687	3,897	15,881
1971	2,358	16,073	2,181	15,955
1972	2,449	17,436	2,296	16,841

NOTE: The reliability of the figure for 1967 is questionable: there may have been a discrepancy in the collection of data.

The number of holiday visitors showed a steady increase as follows:

1967	*1968*	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
6,181	7,125	7,953	10,203	9,073	12,529

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Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

THE following table shows the labour force classified by industry at the end of 1972:

	Male	*Female*	*Total*	%
Agriculture and fishing	499	269	768	20.4
Mining and quarrying	15	—	15	.4
Construction and installation	852	27	879	23.3
Manufacturing	146	58	204	5.4
Electricity, gas, water and sanitary services	193	189	382	10.1
Commerce	72	43	115	3.1
Transport, storage and communication	174	30	204	5.4
Services	482	685	1,167	31.0
Not applicable, not elsewhere classified	22	13	35	.9
TOTAL	2,455	1,314	3,769	100.0

Over the period the main occupation ceased to be that of agriculture. Numbers employed in the building industry, obviously most of them male, rose considerably and apart from services this became the largest employer of labour. 31% were employed in services most of whom were females. In the Report for 1966 it was quite clear that employment in the territory was mainly small scale agriculture but as can be seen from the figures in the table above there was a complete change of pattern.

COST OF LIVING

The following table shows the movements in the retail prices of the principal items of consumption:

Items	*June 1967*	*June 1969*	*June 1972*
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Table butter (per lb.)	1.40	1.28	1.64
Cooking butter (per lb.)	.68	.72	.88
Cheese (per lb.)	1.10	1.20	1.28
Eggs (each)	.14	.14	.15
Fish, dried and salted, Canadian (per lb.)	.80	1.00	1.25
Cornmeal (per lb.)	.18	.18	.30
Flour (per lb.)	.16	.20	.20
Lard (per lb.)	.85	.72	.98
Meat, fresh (per lb.)			
Beef	.75	.80	1.00
Mutton	.60	.75	1.00
Pork	.60	.70	.80

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Items	*June 1967*	*June 1969*	*June 1972*
Meat, smoked and cured (per lb.)			
Bacon	2.00	2.24	2.24
Milk, evaporated (per tin)	.40	.42	.54
Milk, fresh (per bottle)	.14	.16	.25
Edible oil (per bottle)	.90	.90	1.10
Potatoes, imported (per lb)	.30	.40	.40
Rice, Demerara (per lb.)			
Super quality	.20	.22	.25
Sugar (per lb.)			
White	.25	.22	.35
Brown	.16	.18	.26
Onions (per lb.)	.40	.40	.40

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES

Group	*April 1964*	*April 1969*	*June 1970*	*June 1971*	*April 1972*
I. Food	100.0	120.8	134.1	156.8	155.0
II. Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	100.0	133.4	128.7	138.8	144.0
III. Housing	100.0	147.1	152.0	222.0	222.0
IV. Fuel and Light	100.0	109.0	109.0	120.8	121.0
V. Household and misc. Items	100.0	111.7	113.8	141.9	162.0
VI. Clothing	100.0	133.0	144.6	139.4	181.0
VII. Services	100.0	183.5	191.8	215.2	245.0
All Items	100.0	129.3	137.1	160.4	163.4

LABOUR RELATIONS

Relations between employers and workers were satisfactory throughout the period.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The staff of the Department consisted of a Labour Commissioner and one clerk. The Labour Commissioner, together with his statutory duties, advised employers and workers on procedures for fostering good relations and for the avoidance and settlement of disputes; he undertaook conciliation when it was necessary.

LABOUR ORGANISATION

The principal legislation in force was as follows:

Employment of Children Prohibition, Cap. 269

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children, Cap. 270

Labour, Cap. 314 (Amended by 13/63)

Labour (Minimum Wage), Cap. 315

Shop Regulation, Cap. 286

Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry), Cap. 321

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Workmen's Compensation, Cap. 323
Trade Union, Cap. 323
Labourers Medical Attendance, Cap. 201
Public Holidays, Cap. 176 (Amended 6/63)
Emigrant Labourers Protection, Cap. 135
Emigrants Protection, Cap. 136
Foreign Merchant Shipping (Agreement), Cap. 142
Merchant Seamen's Discipline, Cap. 145
Recruiting Workers, Cap. 138
Coroners, Cap. 17
Protection of Wages 6/62 (Amended 12/63)
Immigration and Passport, Cap. 137 (Regulations 1947 and 1970)

see Table on page 9

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

DURING the period under review British Aid was of particular importance. All but a small proportion of it was in grant form. The aid comprised budgetary aid to help to balance the recurrent budget and development assistance for financing major capital projects.

Import duties were derived mainly from foodstuffs, clothing, tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, sugar, motor vehicles and building materials. Commonwealth goods were imported on preferential rates.

The maximum Income Tax rate was 20% both for corporations and individuals with reasonably generous allowances. In 1971 all properties on the island were re-valued for the purpose of instituting a tax based on site values. The rate at the end of 1972 was 0.9% of market value of the unimproved site where such a value did not exceed $3,333; for every dollar in excess of this figure a further rate of 1.5% of excess was levied.

Income Tax and Customs Duties relief was given under the Development Incentives Ordinance to encourage the establishment and expansion of development enterprises and provide for the granting of certain tax concession to companies engaging in such enterprises.

Comparative figures of revenue and expenditure are given on page 10:

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WAGES IN PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS

Occupation	WAGES						Remarks
	1967		1970		1972		
	Dollars Daily	Dollars Weekly	Dollars Daily	Dollars Weekly	Dollars Daily	Dollars Weekly	
1. Commerce:							
(a) Banks		*$50–$100		$52.50–$107.50		*$62.50–$112.50	Paid Monthly
(b) Offices		$32.25–$50–$75		$37.50–$62.50–$112.50		*$37.50–$62.50–$112.50	
2. Hotel and Catering:							
(a) Waiters and bartenders		$17–$20		$16–$35		$23–$40	Plus commission on service charge.
(b) Cooks		$22–$25		$30–$70		$35–$60	
(c) Maids, kitchen help etc.		$17		$15–$25		$25	
3. Agriculture:							
(a) Mobile machinery operators	$6.00		$8.00–$12.88		$8.70		Tractor drivers at bottom of scale D6 drivers at top.
(b) Labourers	$2.25–$3.00		$2.87–$4.02–$5.18		$2.87–$5.18–$8.00		
4. Construction:							
(a) Craftsmen	$6.32–$10						Five day week exclusive of overtime.
(b) Apprentices	$1.44–$7.20						
(c) Labourers		*$15–$20		$26–$30		$30–$40	
5. General Workers:							
(a) Messengers, store clerks, handymen		*$12.–$25–$40		$15–$35–$50		$20–$30–$50	
(b) Watchmen		*$30–$50		$31.60–$57.50		$35–$57–$50	
(c) Labourers		*$12–$40		$18–$45		*$20–$50	

These ranges are obtained by using the figures for the lowest and highest paid workers in each category.
Where three figures are used as in:
1. Commerce (b) Offices, the highest figure is exceptional and the average is best obtained from the other two.
*** Estimated.**

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GOVERNMENT REVENUE, EXPENDITURE AND ANNUAL BALANCES

E.C.$

Year	*Total Local Revenue*	*Total Local Expenditure*	*Total Revenue*	*Total Expenditure*	*Surplus(+) or Deficit(—)*
1967	2,045,403	2,759,763	2,718,825	2,832,200	—113,375
1968	2,759,767	3,472,997	3,369,367	3,532,874	—163,507
1969	3,180,067	3,021,251	3,896,431	3,021,251	+875,180
1970	2,979,896	3,534,399	3,995,908	3,773,153	+222,755
1971	3,154,639	4,185,906*	4,981,418	4,185,906*	+795,512
1972	3,609,428	4,384,784*	4,504,801	4,384,874*	+119,927

* A change in accounting method.

GOVERNMENT REVENUE ANALYSED BY PRINCIPAL ITEMS

E.C.$

Year	*Import Duty*	*Income Tax*	*Property Tax*	*Licenses*	*Stamp Duty*	*Excise Duty*	*Other Local Revenue*	*Total Local Revenue*	*Tota Revenue*
1967	893,003	153,088	83,997	43,783	27,560	9,588	834,384	2,045,403	2,718,825
1968	847,154	253,377	237,324	69,345	36,231	10,677	1,305,659	2,759,767	2,369,367
1969	636,334	289,779	187,034	70,605	46,811	3,315	1,946,188	3,180,066	3,896,431
1970	781,970	424,529	210,765	74,622	53,700	...	1,684,370	2,979,896	3,995,908
1971	790,769	506,732	317,848	89,938	71,945	...	1,377,407	3,154,639	4,981,418

United Kingdom funds issued for the development programme:

	E.C.$
1967	700,429
1968	645,120
1969	832,416
1970	1,624,900
1971	2,251,954
1972	1,970,330

NOTE: Because of the difference between the budgetary years of Montserrat and the United Kingdom it has not been possible to provide a breakdown of the actual amounts disbursed: and because some development projects remained uncompleted at the end of the financial years the amounts spent were always somewhat less than those given above.

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Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

Currency

Currency in use is that issued by the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority, the notes in circulation being in denominations of $1, $5, $20 and $100. The Eastern Caribbean dollar is fixed at $4.80 to the pound sterling: one dollar being equivalent to approximately twenty-one British pence.

Banking

Barclays D.C.O., later named Barclays Bank International Limited, opened an extension to its premises; the American Chase Manhattan Bank opened its doors for business in March 1972 and the Royal Bank of Canada further improved its premises. All these banks offered the usual over-the-counter facilities and gave considerable publicity for their loan and mortgage services.

The Government Savings Bank with an average of just under 2,900 depositors per year continued to function, though at the end of the period there were signs that the larger depositors were beginning to transfer their accounts to the commercial banks where higher rates of interest were being offered.

Chapter 5: Commerce

TOTAL TRADE AND BALANCE OF VISIBLE TRADE

E.C.$

Year	*Domestic Exports*	*Re-Exports*	*Total Exports*	*Imports*	*Balance of visible Trade*
1967	52,643	178,596	231,239	6,923,290	—6,692,051
1968	57,604	183,951	241,555	7,731,196	—7,489,641
1969	115,606	...	...	...	...
1970	276,984	174,210	451,194	8,805,613	—8,354,419
1971	124,904	178,590	303,494	8,557,642	—8,254,148
1972	121,917	247,824	369,741	12,132,111*	—11,762,370*

* Provisional Figure.

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Chapter 6: Production

AGRICULTURE

MONTSERRAT'S soil and favourable climate are ideal for the cultivation of many tropical crops, and cotton, bananas, mangoes, avocadoes, coconuts, peppers and a wide range of vegetables are grown and exported in varying quantities. Agricultural production, however, is limited by the uneconomically small size of the agricultural holdings, over 90 per cent of which consist of less than five acres and over 50 per cent of less than one acre. Moreover, these holdings are often divided into two or three widely dispersed fragments. This land use pattern is unsuitable for intensive farming and has been one of the main underlying causes of the poor performance of Montserrat's agriculture in recent years; though other factors, such as the collapse of the world market for sea island cotton in the early 1960s and the large scale emigration of agricultural workers aggravated the situation. In 1971, however, a Land Development Authority was established to promote land reform and facilitate the consolidation of farm land into more viable units. It will also plough back into agriculture profits made from the development of land for non-agricultural purposes. A Development Finance and Marketing Corporation, financed with assistance from the Caribbean Development Bank and H.M. Government was set up in 1972 to disburse farm improvement loans and other forms of agricultural credit to farmers.

Sea Island cotton, once the mainstay of Montserrat's economy, was still the most important cash crop and the main export, but its importance was dwindling rapidly. In 1971-72 only 180 acres of cotton were planted, compared with 1,180 in 1966-67, and the output of clean lint, some 16,260 lb., was less than a sixth of that five years earlier. Mechanised cotton picking, the key to the future cultivation of this crop in other Caribbean islands, was impossible in Montserrat due to the hilly terrain. Of the other traditional export crops, sugar preceded cotton in its decline, cane production having ceased in 1968 and bananas having faded into insignificance.

In 1971 and 1972 measures to revive the island's agriculture were concentrating on the cultivation of vegetables for export, particularly tomatoes, carrots, peppers and mangoes. Increased output was facilitated by the work of a Government horticultural irrigation

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project. Experimental work was also proceeding in tomatoes, cucumbers, capsicums, melons and egg plants. Government operated a cattle improvement station and increased poultry output made the island self-sufficient in eggs.

Fishing was confined to offshore waters and was carried out in small boats powered by outboard motors. A fisherman's aid scheme assisted fishermen to purchase motors and other equipment. In 1971, 93,577 lb. of fish were landed. There are about 5,000 acres of woodland on the island. There is little commercial forestry, however, the main objective of forestry policy being the prevention of soil erosion.

LAND

In 1971 the use of land was reassessed and provided the following breakdown:

Use of Land	*Acreage*
Unused land	11,492
Forest woodland	5,000
Rough grazing and improved pasture	3,195
Field crops	2,572
Road, villages, waste land	1,389
Urban and real estate	1,382
Tree crops	300
	25,330

A census of agriculture carried out in 1972 showed that there were 1,247 holdings covering 5,860.3 acres as follows:

Land under temporary crops	522.7
Land under tree crops	97.2
Land under temporary fallow	560.5
Improved pasture	168.1
Rough grazing	2,117.6
Forest and woodland	2,203.9
Other land	190.3
Total land in holdings	5,860.3 acres

The value of agricultural exports was:

Commodity	*1967*	*1968*	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
			E.C.$			
Tomatoes	1,695	5,024	9,244	14,240	13,519	7,249
Sweet Potatoes	4,130	416	813	813	279	911
Mangoes	1,665	3,121	1,854	12,546	12,196	2,183
Mixed Vegetables	12,729	2,120	14,881	632	5,567	795
Limes	10,800	1,747	489	8,451	2,341	2,254
Tamarinds	780	6,000	1,208	5,956	8,904	11,837
Lime Juice	...	10,437	111	...	...	...
Peppers	13,320	5,934	3,448	9,894	17,862	28,069
Cotton Seed	1,989	5,300	2,210	4,785	...	1,540
Cotton Lints	2,328	2,600	77,972	192,956	21,465	24,141

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ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The general health of livestock remained satisfactory throughout the period under review. Most animals slaughtered were used locally and only very small numbers were exported. Animals slaughtered in public slaughter houses were:

Year	*Cattle*	*Pigs*	*Sheep and Goats*
1967	458	276	365
1968	404	221	287
1969	380	156	100
1970	376	184	123
1971	303	122	58
1972	386	116	123

1972 *Census of Livestock*

Cattle	
Total cattle	1,861
Pigs	
Total pigs	2,250
Breeding sows	269
Boars	101
Barrows	266
Sheep	
Total sheep	3,042
Goats	
Total goats	2,790

FISHING

Local catches landed during the last three years of the period under review were:

1970	*1971*	*1972*
91,400 lb.	93,577 lb.	140,367 lb.

No figures available for 1967, 1968 and 1969.

Chapter 7: Social Services

Education

In 1967 there were 15 primary schools in the territory: 12 belonging to Government, one Roman Catholic (Grant-Aided), one Seventh Day Adventist (unaided) and one small fee paying private school. In 1972 there were 16 primary schools: 12 Government, two unaided and two aided. Attendances were:

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Year	*Enrolment*	*Percentage Attendance*
1967 . . .	2908	93
1968 . . .	2969	90.3
1969 . . .	2542	92.3
1970 . . .	2641	92.4
1971 . . .	2970	93.2
1972 . . .	2853	93.2

Primary Schools

Primary education was compulsory from 5 to 14 and free to all children between 5 and 15 years.

Limited pre-primary education organised by voluntary efforts with some governmental support was available for children between 3 and 5 years of age.

In September 1972 the first of three Junior Secondary Schools opened with limited facilities. This was part of a plan to eventually provide free secondary education for all children between the ages of 12 and 15. The Junior Secondary grade was designed to provide learning experiences in the basic areas of language art, social studies, general science and mathematics with practical orientations. When fully developed the curriculum will also include agriculture, light handicraft, typewriting, home economics and woodworking.

The single Secondary Grammar School accepted children who entered through a common entrance examination at 11 plus; although a lower limit of ten and upper one of 13 was sometimes accepted. Fees were charged except for scholarship winners and exhibitioners but Government's provision of text books made the cost to parents quite cheap.

A Technical College was also opened in September 1972 to provide vocational training through craft level courses. When operating at full capacity it is expected that courses will be given in four departments: commercial and business studies, building, engineering and hotel trades. Most courses last for two years and lead to formal qualifications equivalent to the Craft Trade Certificate of the City and Guilds of London or the relevant level of the Royal Society of Arts. It is expected that most of the students will enter the Technical College through the Junior Secondary stream, but it is also foreseen that pupils of the Secondary Grammar School who have an aptitude for practical work will also enter into the Technical College.

With the opening of the Technical College came the closure of the small Government run Commercial School.

In 1972 the total enrolment in all schools (less pre-primary nursery schools) was:

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ENROLMENT

Type of School	*Number of Schools*	*Enrolment*		
		Male	*Female*	*Total*
Primary Schools:				
Government . .	12	1,291	1,200	2,491
Unaided . . .	2	80	102	182
Aided . . .	2	98	82	180
Secondary School . .	1	88	158	246
Junior/Secondary School .	1	81	54	135
Commercial School (closed July)	1	4	7	11
Technical College (open September) . . .	1	24	14	38

The Government continued to assist the efforts of the Red Cross Society which supported a school for the deaf.

Teacher Training

For all the six years under report the Montserrat Government was awarded six places at the Leeward Island Teacher Training College in Antigua which were all filled. Teacher Training at all levels was provided at Erdiston College, Barbados, the University of the West Indies, in St. Lucia, Guyana and in the United Kingdom under the Commonwealth Education Study Fellowship Scheme. The Canadian Government also provided teachers to work in Montserrat both within the primary schools and at the Cork Hill Training Centre which closed its doors after being phased out in 1972.

Teachers' vacation courses and induction courses were organised every year with the assistance of the Ministry of Overseas Development through Technical Assistance attachments.

Secondary School

The one Secondary School is situated in Plymouth. All candidates for entry took a common entrance examination. The pupils followed a universal curriculum for the first two years after entry but on reaching Form 3 they were offered a choice of courses. Enrolment throughout the period was:

1967 . . .	268
1968 . . .	263
1969 . . .	218
1970 . . .	222
1971 . . .	242
1972 . . .	246

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Instruction was given up to the standard of the General Certificate of Education.

The main problems were the rapid turnover of staff which was brought about by having far too many temporary appointments during the period in which there was a heavy emphasis on the training up of local persons. There was also pressure on accommodation. In addition to normal sports and athletics there were many extra curricular activities.

School Health

Medical attention was provided at the clinics for those children requiring it and a dental service was maintained. UNICEF milk and biscuits provided by the Montserrat Government were given to those children in need.

Adult Education

Under the guidance of a Resident Tutor classes aimed at enabling the education of the under-privileged to acquire G.C.E. "O" level qualifications were continued. Several seminars in vocational counselling for prospective school leavers were provided, as well as tuition in various subjects.

Library

The growth in the number of registered members was satisfactory, more than doubling over the period. Of the 2,500 registered approximately 1,000 were children. The main Library was situated in Plymouth and persons living outside enjoyed library facilities made available to them through book centres in the rural areas.

Many new books were purchased from local funds and a very large number of second-hand ones were generously donated by the Ranfurly Library in Britain.

PUBLIC HEALTH

During the period under review, the island continued, as in previous years, to enjoy freedom from any serious epidemic disease.

The welfare clinics for infants, pre-school children, expectant and nursing mothers, and the district medical officers' clinics, continued their activities.

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The distribution through the health centre services of dried skimmed milk supplied by UNICEF was continued. Expectant and nursing mothers, infants and pre-school children received this valuable supplement intended to combat dietary deficiencies and malnutrition.

The Aedes Aegypti mosquito continued to be a nuisance though not a major hazard and general control measures were carried out throughout the period wherever and whenever necessary.

Medical, Public Health and Sanitary Services

The Senior Medical Officer administered the medical, public health and sanitary services, including the Glendon Hospital (60 beds), three health centres and eight health outposts at which facilities were provided for the examination and treatment of patients suffering from general medical and minor surgical conditions, as well as for pre-natal and infant welfare clinics and preventative measures in the form of immunizations against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and typhoid. Family planning clinics were also held at the three health centres. There was also a midwifery service; a sanitary service for the inspection of premises, food, etc., and the control of insect-borne diseases; an infirmary for the poor and aged, medical care at the prison, and port health supervision. The Government provided free dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers, school children and old people.

In the latter half of 1970 a tetanus immunisation campaign for people of all ages was mounted. This was made possible by a generous gift of Tetanus Toxoid made available by Glaxo Ltd. of England.

The island is divided into two medical districts, the Medical Officer of the Central District being responsible for the town district, the southern and south-central sections of the island, and the Medical Officer of the Rural District being responsible for the remaining areas.

The establishment of the Glendon Hospital during the period comprised the Senior Medical Officer, two District Medical Officers, a Surgeon Specialist, a Dental Surgeon, a Matron, one Administrative Sister, one Sister Tutor, six Sisters, seven Staff Nurses, 19 Student Nurses, one Dispenser, one Laboratory Technician, one Radiographer and a Steward. Courses for nurses and midwives were provided locally under the supervision of the Matron, in addition to courses and seminars provided by W.H.O. and through Commonwealth Scholarships.

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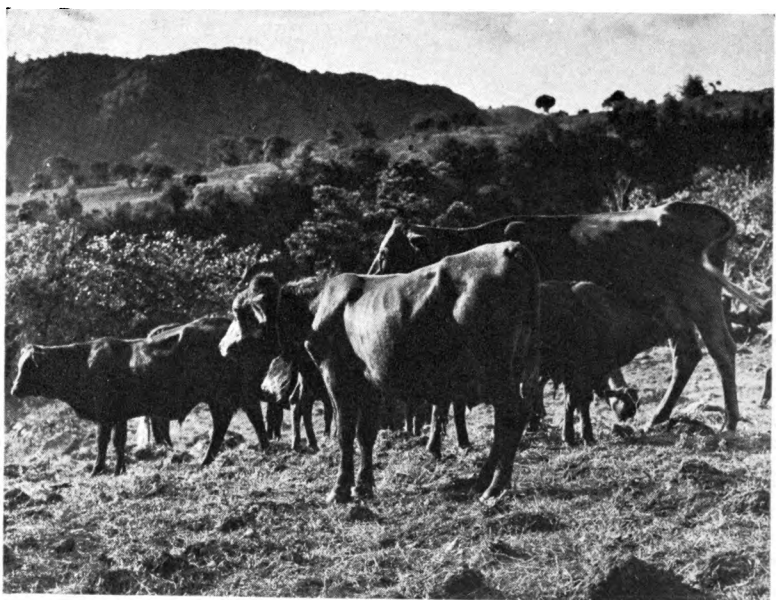
Interior of the Legislative Council Chamber refurbished after fire damage, 1972



Breeding for better beef—Jamaica Reds on Pangola pasture: Government livestock project

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Government House, Montserrat

Bulking of pineapples by the Agricultural Department for providing varieties of planting material

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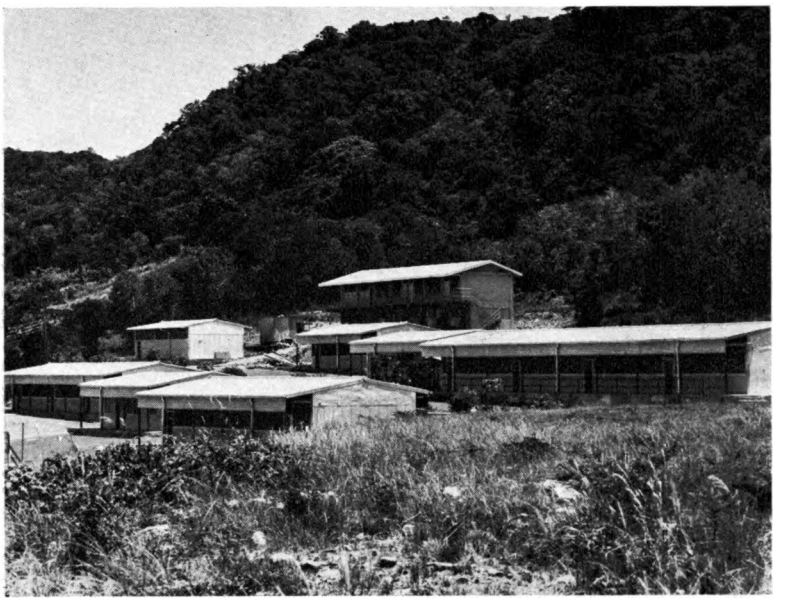

Salem Junior Secondary School, built 1972

Land preparation by the Department of Agriculture tractor service

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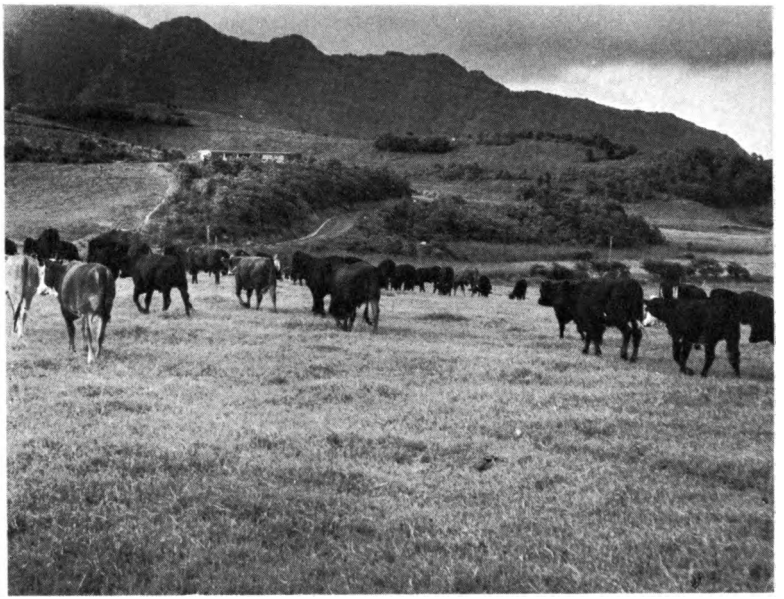
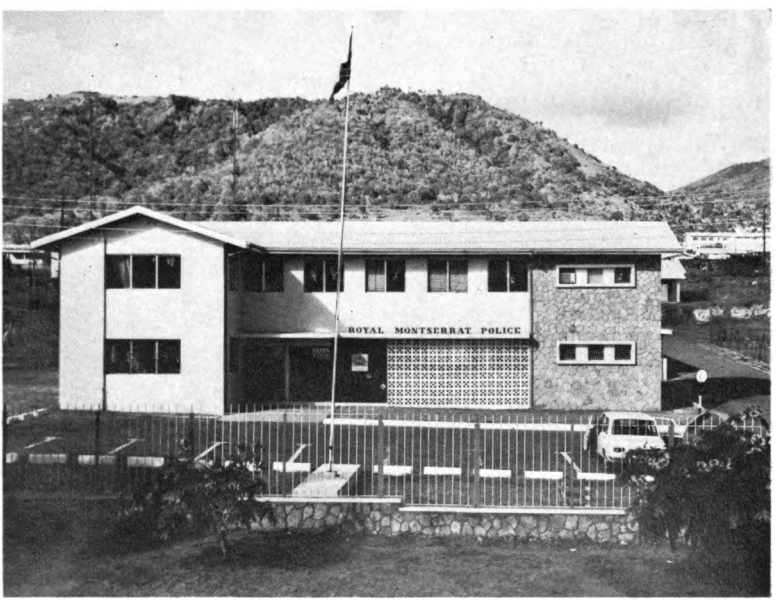


Cattle farming at 1,000 feet above sea level



Royal Montserrat Police Headquarters, built 1972

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NUMBER OF DEATHS BY CAUSES ANALYSED ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES

Disease	*1967*	*1968*	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
1. Infective and Parasitic Disease* Total	3	6	12	5	5	8
O/w. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	2	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis of meninges and central nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	1
2. Neoplasms* Total	10	10	20	11	13	17
3. Allergic endocrine system, metabolic and nutritional diseases* Total	2	2	2	7	2	6
4. Diseases of blood and blood forming organs	...	...	...	...	1	3
5. Mental, psychoneurotic and personality disorders	...	...	...	...	...	1
6. Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	27	4	2	2	5	3
7. Diseases of the circulatory system* Total	32	41	62	49	57	59
O/w. Diseases of heart	29	9	21	15	28	35
8. Diseases of respiratory system* Total	37	18	13	16	9	16
9. Diseases of digestive system	11	3	6	3	3	3
O/w. Gastro-enteritis and colitis except diarrhoea of the new born	7	...	...	...	...	...
10. Diseases of genito-urinary system* Total	4	3	2	...	3	5
11. Deliveries, complications of pregnancy, childbirth	...	2	...	2	1	...
12. Diseases of skin, cellular tissues* Total	1	...	...	3	2	...
13. Diseases of bones and organs of movement* Total	1	...	2	...	...	2
14. Congenital malformation	2	5	1	1	...	...
15. Diseases of early infancy	15	4	4	6	6	3
16. Symptoms of senility and ill-defined conditions	3	15	8	5	11	13
17. Accidents, poisoning, violence	...	2	4	10	5	5
Grand Total	148	115	138	120	123	144

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Public Assistance Committee administered the annual government grants supplemented by voluntary contributions for providing weekly relief allowances to the aged, the poor and needy. In addition The Old People's Welfare Association assisted by providing medical and nursing care for old persons confined to their homes. The Government also maintained an infirmary where the aged and infirm with no means of subsistence or no one to care for them were looked after.

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The local branches of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade continued their activities. The youth movements, i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Junior Red Cross and Church groups of young people all held regular meetings.

The Montserrat Branch of the British Red Cross Society continued to run a workshop for blind and disabled persons in the community. The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind assisted by meeting part of the wages of the local supervisor. A mini-bus from the London Rotarians transported the disabled to the workshop. In January 1968 the Red Cross also opened a school for deaf children, teaching aids for which were supplied by the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf.

The Young Women's Christian Association concentrated on school leavers' classes to assist young women in taking their place in community life. Activities also included literary classes for adults.

A Probation Officer was appointed in 1968.

Chapter 8: Legislation

IMPORTANT legislation enacted during the period under review was as follows:

The Police Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1967 (No. 1 of 1967), setting up a *separate* Police Force for the Island of Montserrat;

The Underground Water Ordinance, 1967 (No. 7 of 1967), providing for the ownership, control and exploitation of underground water in the Colony;

The Stamp Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1967 (No. 10 of 1967) increasing stamp duties on legal documents;

The Water Authority Ordinance, 1967 (No. 14 of 1967), providing for the establishment of a corporate Water Authority;

The Interim Water Supply Ordinance, 1967 (No. 17 of 1967), providing for the public supply of water by Government pending the establishment of a Water Authority;

The Income Tax Ordinance, 1967 (No. 19 of 1967), consolidating the Laws relating to Income Tax;

The West Indies Associated States Supreme Court (Montserrat) Ordinance, 1968 (No. 1 of 1968), conferring jurisdiction on the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court;

The Summary Jurisdiction Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1968 (No. 2 of 1968), placing the Court of Summary Jurisdiction under the Magistrate rather than a Judge of the High Court;

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The Regional Development Agency Agreement Ordinance, 1968 (No. 10 of 1968) giving legal effect to an Agreement between Barbados and the Windward and Leeward Islands;

The Caribbean Free Trade Association (Ratification of Agreement) Ordinance, 1968 (No. 14 of 1968) giving legal effect to the C.A.R.I.F.T.A. Agreement;

The Customs Duties (Amendment) Ordinance, 1968 (No. 16 of 1968) providing for the levying of a Consumption Tax in view of the C.A.R.I.F.T.A. Agreement;

The Dogs (Protection of Poultry and Small Stock) Ordinance, 1968 (No. 20 of 1968) providing for the control of dogs and the protection of poultry and small stock;

The Land Settlement and Development Board Ordinance, 1968 (No. 26 of 1968) providing for the establishment of a Land Settlement and Development Board in the Colony;

The Montserrat National Trust Ordinance, 1969 (No. 11 of 1969), establishing the Montserrat National Trust as a corporate body for the preservation of places of historic and architectural interest or natural beauty;

The Caribbean Development Bank Ordinance, 1970 (No. 1 of 1970), giving legal effect to the Agreement setting up the Caribbean Development Bank;

The Landholding Control Ordinance, 1970 (No. 2 of 1970), controlling the holding of real estate by persons not belonging to Montserrat;

The Genocide Ordinance, 1970 (No. 3 of 1970), giving effect to the United Nations Genocide Convention;

The East Caribbean Common Market (Ratification of Agreement) Ordinance, 1970 (No. 4 of 1970), giving effect to the provisions of the East Caribbean Common Market Agreement;

The Electricity Supply Ordinance, 1970 (No. 6 of 1970), implementing an Agreement between the Government of the Colony, the Commonwealth Development Corporation and Montserrat Electricity Services Limited for the generation and supply of electricity in the Colony;

The Beach Protection Ordinance, 1970 (No. 9 of 1970), regulating the removal of sand, stones, shingle and gravel from the beaches of the Colony;

The Airport Service Charge Ordinance, 1970 (No. 10 of 1970), imposing a tax on persons travelling by air out of Montserrat;

The Constitution and Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1970 (No. 15 of 1970), providing for a house-to-house enumeration of voters every five years;

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The Immigration and Passport Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1970 (No. 18 of 1970), providing for the issue of permits for permanent residence and controlling the employment of non-belongers by necessitating the issue of work permits;

The Banking Laws (Minor Amendments) Ordinance, 1971 (No. 2 of 1971), making Saturday a *dies non* for banking and allied purposes;

The Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1971 (No. 3 of 1971), increasing maintenance allowances for abandoned wives and children and removing an existing inequality between children born in wedlock and those born outside wedlock;

The Montserrat Land Development Authority Ordinance, 1971 (No. 9 of 1971), providing for the establishment of a Land Development Authority as a statutory body in the Island;

The Finance and Audit (Amendment) Ordinance, 1971 (No. 13 of 1971), defining the powers and duties of the Principal Auditor and protecting his salary and tenure of office;

The Montserrat Development Finance and Marketing Corporation Ordinance, 1971 (No. 15 of 1971), establishing a Development Finance and Marketing Corporation and setting out its duties and powers;

The Property Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1971 (No. 16 of 1971), establishing a fixed rate for property tax instead of having it annually set by an Order of the Executive Council;

The Real Estate Agents (Registration) Ordinance, 1972 (No. 1 of 1972), providing for the licensing and registration of real estate agents in the Colony;

The Water Authority Ordinance, 1972 (No. 6 of 1972), providing for the establishment of a corporate Water Authority with the duty of providing a potable water supply for the Colony and of conserving all drinking water;

The National Provident Fund Ordinance, 1972 (No. 8 of 1972), establishing a National Provident Fund with contributions from wages of employees matched by equal contributions by employers;

The Trade Licences Ordinance, 1972 (No. 9 of 1972), providing for the licensing of and payment of fees by persons trading in the Colony, whether as Merchants or as Travelling Agents;

The Distribution and Price of Goods (Amendment) Ordinance, 1972 (No. 15 of 1972), establishing a Prices Commission to advise Government on matters pertaining to price control;

The Finance (Control and Audit) Ordinance, 1972 (No. 17 of 1972), providing for the appointment and protection of a Director of Audit, the management of the public funds and the appropriation, withdrawal and proper use of public monies.

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Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE Courts of law in Montserrat are:

(i) The High Court of the West Indies and Associated States in its criminal and civil jurisdiction. This court was set up by Order-in-Council in 1967 and replaced the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands.

(ii) The West Indian Associated State Court of Appeal, which hears appeals from the High Court, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrates' Court.

(iii) The Court of Summary Jurisdiction which provides a relatively inexpensive and summary procedure for claims not exceeding $720.

(iv) The Magistrates' Court which has minor criminal and civil jurisdiction and hears preliminary inquiries into indictable cases.

(v) The Juvenile Court in which the Magistrate sits with two assessors to deal with juvenile offenders.

(vi) The Coroner's Court.

The High Court sits three times a year in the Montserrat Circuit in the months of March, July and November, and was presided over by a Judge of the High Court who was resident in Dominica. The sitting of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction which is presided over by the same Judge usually takes place immediately after the sitting of the Supreme Court.

The following tables show the classification of major crimes for the years 1969 to 1972. Unfortunately the records for 1967 and 1968 were destroyed by fire:

OFFENCES TRIED IN THE HIGH COURT BY NATURE OF CRIME

Crime	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
Assault	4	2	3	4
Larceny	9	14	14	6
Burglary	...	...	3	1
Forgery	1	1	2	...
Unlawful knowledge	1	...	...	...
Death by driving	2	1	...	2
Shooting	1	...	...	...
Wounding	1	4	1	6

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Crime	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
Rape	...	...	9	3
Cruelty	...	...	1	...
Shopbreaking	...	...	1	1
Escape from prison	...	...	2	...
Buggery	...	...	2	1
Killing cattle	...	...	1	...
Receiving stolen goods	...	...	...	5
Manslaughter	...	...	...	3
Housebreaking	...	...	...	2
Arson	...	...	...	1
Total	19	22	39	35

RESULTS OF OFFENCES TRIED IN THE HIGH COURT

Result	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
Nolle prosequi	1	2	1	3
Acquitted	13	9	...	4
Imprisoned	8	8	27	16
Probation	1	17	...	...
Awaiting trial	...	...	1	1
Conditional discharge	...	...	4	3
Fined	...	...	3	4
Case dismissed	...	...	2	4
Case withdrawn	...	...	1	...

On the civil side the number of cases filed was:

1967	14
1968	40
1969	36
1970	52
1971	59
1972	57

The number of appeals filed from both the High Court and the Magistrates' Court was:

1967	13
1968	13
1969	12
1970	13
1971	8
1972	1

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OFFENCES TRIED IN MAGISTRATES COURT BY NATURE OF CRIME

Criminal Cases	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
Indictable Investigation cases	81	47	45	32
Offences against persons	225	16	92	91
Praedial larceny	61	27	35	24
Malicious damage to property	15	1	7	...
Damage to property	...	10	13	10
Traffic offences	97	1	120	134
Domestic proceedings	72	73	56	73
Miscellaneous minor offences	444	82	217	179
Offences with intent	...	...	...	17
Possession of drugs	...	...	...	13
Total	995	257	585	573

RESULTS OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES TRIED IN MAGISTRATES COURT

Result	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
Imprisoned	41	44	40	21
Fined	275	356	188	207
Bound over or put on probation	44	14	20	14
Reprimanded and discharged	17	115	196	84
Caned	15	...	...	...
Compensation	56	14	65	61
Disqualified from driving	...	...	...	9
Settled out of court	...	...	...	1
Committed to Juvenile Court	...	...	...	2
Case dismissed	326	100	76	76
Case withdrawn	...	...	...	64

The number of civil cases filed were:

1967	11
1968	405
1969	344
1970	327
1971	276
1972	204

Police

The Royal Montserrat Police became autonomous on 26th February 1967.

Her Majesty the Queen, on the occasion of the Royal Visit to the Caribbean in 1966, graciously granted the use of the "Royal" style to the combined Antigua-Montserrat-Virgin Islands Police and when the dissolution came in 1967, gave further permission for the title "Royal Montserrat Police" to be used in perpetuity.

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The establishment was:

1967	49
1968	59
1969	63
1970	80
1971	84
1972	84

From 1967 to 1970 the Royal Montserrat Police was commanded by a Superintendent: in 1971, when the Force was enlarged to 84 all ranks, a Commissioner of Police was appointed.

Disturbances which occurred in Plymouth on 12th and 13th February 1969 in consequence of which a short state of emergency was declared caused the Administrator to appoint a Commission of Enquiry. Arising out of this Commission of Enquiry certain recommendations were made which led to better conditions of service and the provision of better accommodation and equipment for the Police Force.

Traffic

The rapidly increasing number of vehicles using the roads of this small territory made it necessary to strengthen the Road Traffic Department and to increase the scale of publicity concerning road manners and driving practices.

NUMBER OF ROAD VEHICLES LICENSED

Type	*1967*	*1968*	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
Private car	468	512	588	659	697	819
Hire car	113	106	97	144	151	137
Omnibus	33	32	34	24	25	31
Motor-cycle	5	7	11	7	9	11
Tractor	19	18	24	20	16	17
Lorry — Private	36	22	38	33	57	54
Lorry — Government	10	33	17	16		
Pick-up	57	59	61	84	82	89
Landrover, moke — Private jeep,	13	12	16	16	52	53
Landrover, moke — Government	14	15	15	27		
Other miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	33	28
Total	768	816	901	1,030	1,122	1,239

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ROAD ACCIDENTS

Place of Accident	*1967*	*1968*	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*	*1972*
Cork Hill	13	10	11	17	12	18
George Street	13	8	12	12	13	6
Parliament Street	11	3	9	8	7	8
Kinsale	7	6	3	3	6	6
Ryners	3	4	1	5	3	10
Dyers	...	...	2	5	4	6
Salem	...	...	...	...	5	7
Richmond	...	...	1	7	...	4
Grove	4	...	...	...	...	3
Gages	...	5	4	3	5	3
Parsons	...	...	...	...	1	1
Church Road	3	...	1	3	9	12
Belham	...	3	...	...	2	2
Gingoes	...	...	...	...	1	2
Wapping	4	...	2	5	4	4
Harris	...	...	...	...	6	14
Other	67	45	31	54	64	54
Total	125	84	77	122	142	160

Prison

The Prison had cell accommodation for thirty males and six females. The Superintendent of Prison had under him a staff of:

1967	8
1968	8
1969	8
1970	9
1971	10
1972	11

Over the period there was no great variation in the pattern of crime or sentencing though there were signs of increasing juvenile delinquency which were beginning to worry the Government. A study of this problem was being undertaken at the end of 1972.

Because of the small number of female prisoners, a matron was not employed full-time, being engaged on a temporary basis whenever there was need.

Improvements to the Prison were planned including the provision of better cooking facilities, shower baths and flush toilets, but did not proceed for lack of funds. The building, though far from modern, has been improved from time to time and is of a reasonable standard.

Remand prisoners were held in a separate remand block.

Ample opportunity was given to every prisoner to practice his religion: regular Sunday services of worship were held in the Prison by visiting chaplains.

A Visiting Committee made regular visits to examine conditions and to investigate complaints and petitions from prisoners.

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OFFENCES FOR WHICH PRISONERS WERE IMPRISONED

	Murder	*House Breaking Charges*	*Assault and Battery*	*Larceny of Goat and Sheep, etc.*	*Petty Larceny*	*Miscellaneous*	*Debt*
1967							
Males	...	6	13	2	5	27	...
Females	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
1968							
Males	...	3	24	2	11	32	3
Females	...	...	...	...	2	3	...
1969							
Males	...	2	24	...	7	18	1
Females	...	...	1	...	1	4	1
1970							
Males	...	4	19	2	5	36	2
Females	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
1971							
Males	...	7	20	1	5	27	2
Females	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
1972							
Males	...	8	3	1	7	29	...
Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

THE electricity supply system, which was expanded between 1966 and 1969 at a cost of $EC1.27 million, consists of an island-wide 11,000 volts network connecting 43 individual sub-stations to a central power station with a generating capacity of 2,000 kW. In 1971 it provided some 6.23 million kWh of electricity to over 2,000 subscribers. The service was operated by the Montserrat Electricity Services Ltd., a company formed jointly by the Montserrat Government and the British-owned Commonwealth Development Corporation and which took over the function of the former Government Electricity Department in March 1970.

WATER SERVICES

The construction of new homes and business premises throughout the island during the period under review put increasing strains upon the water supply system which by 1970 had become acute. To meet

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the increased domestic and commercial demand a new island-wide fresh water storage system was being developed with Canadian finance and technical assistance. Plans were first laid for this under the Canadian Aid Programme in 1966 and work commenced in 1969 with a completion date set for 1974.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND MINOR WORKS

A programme of repair and maintenance works on Government buildings and roads was carried out during the period. The Public Works Department was enlarged and re-organised to allow it to undertake larger buildings either by direct labour or under supervised contracts. Major new buildings completed during the period were schools in Plymouth and Harris'. At the end of the period a considerable number of new buildings were under construction the largest of which was the new Technical College on the outskirts of Plymouth.

FIRE SERVICES

A fire brigade made up of trained policemen and volunteers maintained regular practices and drills. There were many fires during the period most of them in small wooden houses. The Court House and Legislative Council Chamber was very severely damaged by fire, arising out of an act of arson in May 1972. Four other fires were started the same night and the fire brigade did an excellent job in containing them.

A fire unit and fire pump were stationed at Blackburne Airport for use on the arrival and departure of aircraft. This unit was brought into service in 1971. Another fire unit with an auxiliary pump was maintained at the Fire Station in Plymouth.

Chapter 11: Communications

THERE were regular cargo services to North America, Britain and continental Europe, and passenger and cargo services to other parts of the Caribbean. Plymouth, the only port of entry, is an open roadstead, but plans for providing it with a deep water harbour were drawn up and submitted to the Caribbean Development Bank with a request for financial assistance.

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Frequent air services to Antigua and St. Kitts, where connections could be made with the major airlines, were provided by Leeward Islands Air Transport, which also operated an air bus service connecting Montserrat with most other Caribbean countries. In 1971 some 30,835 passengers passed through Blackburne Airport which, in recent years, has been extensively modernised with British and Canadian aid.

There are 137 miles of motorable roads, 87 miles being all-weather roads, providing easy access to all parts of the island. The number of motor vehicles more than doubled since 1964 to more than 1,100 in 1971.

Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. operated an island-wide automatic telephone system installed in 1967 and, via direct circuits to Antigua and Barbados, an international telephone service connecting with North America and Europe. Subscribers to the telephone service in 1971 numbered 683.

The General Post Office is situated in Plymouth with sub post offices throughout the island. Both letter box and house-to-house delivery services in Plymouth were provided, country mail being delivered at the sub post offices from whence people collect their mail.

SERVICES

Telephones

Month and Year	*Total Lines*	*Residents' Lines*	*Business Lines*	*Call Boxes*	*Free*	*Telephone* Receipts* $	
June 1967	360	...	...	...	...	1967/68	74,400
December 1969	528	387	141	...	...	1968/69	91,680
December 1970	602	442	160	...	...	1969/70	112,800
December 1971	683	510	173	...	...	1970/71	135,360
December 1972	883	659	200	12	12	1971/72	145,905

Overseas Telephone Calls

1967	29,502	minutes.
1968	36,379	,,
1969	45,697	,,
1970	62,774	,,
1971	69,474	,,
1972	84,737	,,

* Telephone receipts—the financial year ends on March 31st and these receipts cover national calls and a share of international calls.

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Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting and Information Service

Press

ONLY one newspaper, the Montserrat Mirror, is published in Montserrat. Newspapers and magazines from other Caribbean islands were easily available from local distributors.

Broadcasting

Radio Montserrat, the Government owned and run radio station, broadcasts on 885 kilohertz in the medium wave band. The station was on the air for an average of 62½ hours per week carrying a wide variety of programmes. The station derived about half of its revenue from commercial activities.

Radio Antilles, now the largest broadcasting station in the Eastern Caribbean, operated entirely as a commercial station. It was acquired by the West German broadcasting organisation, Deutsche Welle, in 1971. The station was first opened in February 1966.

Information Service

There was no Government information service, the public being kept informed of matters of public interest by use of the press and broadcasting stations.

Chapter 13: Local Forces

THE Defence Force is a part-time locally recruited unit approximately eighty strong, trained and equipped for internal security and natural disaster relief.

In 1967 Force Headquarters was rebuilt following the disastrous fire the year before.

Annual training camps were held throughout the period.

Expenditure on the Defence Force was as follows:

1967 . . .	$8,000
1968 . . .	$6,372
1969 . . .	$12,885
1970 . . .	$10,510
1971 . . .	$10,849
1972 . . .	$14,430

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PART III

Chapter 1: Geography

MONTSERRAT is one of the Leeward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean, lying some 27 miles south-west of Antigua and some 40 miles north-west of the French Overseas Department of Guadeloupe. The island is 11 miles long and 7 miles broad at its extremes, and has an area of 39.5 square miles. It is entirely volcanic in origin, very mountainous and comprises three main mountain ranges: Silver Hills in the north (1,323 feet), Centre Hills (2,429 feet), and Soufrière Hills (3,000 feet) in the south. The hills are covered with forest and give rise to numerous streams. Some limited volcanic activity in the form of warm sulphur springs is still present.

The climate is tropical with mean maximum and minimum temperatures of 30°C (86°F) and 23°C (73.5°F) respectively. Rainfall averages about 60 inches annually. Its incidence is extremely variable, but the rainy season is usually from September to November and the dry season usually from March to June. The island lies in the hurricane zone and is cooled by breezes for the greater part of the year.

Chapter 2: History

MONTSERRAT was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and named after a monastery in Spain. The island was first settled in 1632 by English and Irish colonists from the neighbouring island of St. Kitts, and these were joined later in the century by Irish immigrants from Virginia. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Britain's control of the island was disputed by France and it came under brief periods of French rule on a number of occasions, the last being in 1782–83.

For administrative purposes the Leeward Islands, including Montserrat, were grouped as a separate unit under a single governor in 1671. Apart from the years 1816–34, when they were divided into

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two groups and Montserrat, Antigua and Barbuda formed a separate colony, they continued to be administered as a single unit until 1956 when the Federal Colony of the Leeward Islands, which had been formed in 1871, was abolished. Montserrat then became a separate colony, but continued to be administered by the Governor of the Leeward Islands until January 1960 when the island's Administrator, hitherto responsible to the Governor, became directly responsible to the British Government. Montserrat participated in the Federation of the West Indies from 1958 until its dissolution in 1962 and in the abortive discussions which ensued among East Caribbean Commonwealth islands concerning a possible smaller federation.

Representative government was first established in the seventeenth century and consisted of a Governor, a nominated Legislative Council and an elected House of Assembly. By the mid-nineteenth century, however, this system had become unworkable, the House of Assembly, elected on a narrow property franchise, having become increasingly unrepresentative. In 1866, therefore, the island's constitution was amended to provide for a wholly official and nominated Legislative Council. An elected element, based on a restricted but more liberal franchise, was reintroduced into the Legislative Council in 1936. Universal adult suffrage was introduced in 1952 and, in the same year, the Legislative Council was provided with an elected majority. Ministerial government was introduced in 1960.

Chapter 3: Administration

MONTSERRAT is an internally self-governing colony with a ministerial system of government. The present constitution came in to effect in 1960 and provides for the execution of government through a Governor (an Administrator until November 1971) appointed by the Crown, an Executive Council which has the general control and direction of the Government, and a Legislative Council.

From 1967 the Administrator, and later until the end of 1972 the Governor, retained responsibility for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service and administration of the courts.

The Executive Council comprised the Administrator/Governor who presided over it, two *ex-officio* members (the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary), and four unofficial members—the Chief Minister and three other Ministers.

The Legislative Council was presided over by the Administrator/Governor and had two official members, seven elected members and one nominated unofficial member. The Deputy President of the Legislative Council was elected from within the Council.

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Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

THE inspection of weights and measures was duly carried out as required under section 13(1) of the Weights and Measures Act (Cap. 154). During 1965 and 1966, 135 and 132 weights and measures respectively were tested by an authorised police officer. The standard measures recognised in Montserrat are as follows:

(*a*) Standard of length: the imperial yard.
(*b*) Standard of weight: the imperial pound.
(*c*) Standard of capacity: the imperial gallon.

Chapter 5: Reading List

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APPENDIX

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

January 1967 to December 1970

The Administrator, Mr. D. R. Gibbs, C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., President.

The Attorney-General (*ex officio*).

The Financial Secretary (*ex officio*).

Mr. W. H. Bramble, Chief Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister for Trade and Production.

Mr. B. W. Edwards, Minister for Social Services.

Mr. P. A. Bramble, Minister for Communications and Works.

Mr. J. J. Howe, Member without Portfolio.

December 1970 to December 1972

The Administrator, Mr. D. R. Gibbs, C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., President until June, 1971.

The Administrator, Mr. W. H. Thompson, C.B.E., President, 1st July to 1st November 1971.

The Governor, Mr. W. H. Thompson, C.B.E., President, 2nd November 1971 to 31st December 1972.

The Attorney-General (*ex officio*).

The Financial Secretary (*ex officio*).

Mr. P. A. Bramble, Chief Minister and Minister of Finance.

Mrs. M. R. Tuitt, Minister of Education, Health and Welfare.

Mr. J. A. Osborne, Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands and Housing until 15th June 1972.

Mr. W. H. Ryan, Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands and Housing 16th June 1972 to 31st December 1972.

Mr. E. A. Dyer, Minister of Communications and Works.

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

January 1967 to December 1970

The Administrator, Mr. D. R. Gibbs, C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., President.

The Attorney General (*ex officio*).

The Financial Secretary (*ex officio*).

Mr. W. H. Bramble, Chief Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister for Trade and Production.

Mr. B. W. Edwards, Minister for Social Services.

Mr. P. A. Bramble, Minister for Communications and Works.

Mr. J. J. Howe, Member without Portfolio.

Mr. E. A. Dyer, Member for the Central District.

Mr. M. Dyer, Member for the Southern District.

Mr. K. C. Allen, Nominated Member.

Mr. J. A. Osborne, Member for the North-Western District.

December 1970 to December 1972

The Administrator, Mr. D. R. Gibbs, C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., President until June 1971.

The Administrator, Mr. W. H. Thompson, C.B.E., President, 1st July to 1st November 1971.

The Governor, Mr. W. H. Thompson, C.B.E., President, 2nd November 1971 to 31st December 1972.

The Attorney General (*ex officio*).

The Financial Secretary (*ex officio*).

Mr. P. A. Bramble, Chief Minister and Minister of Finance.

Mrs. M. R. Tuitt, Minister of Education, Health and Welfare.

Mr. E. A. Dyer, Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. W. H. Ryan, Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands and Housing (appointed 16th June 1972).

Mr. J. A. Osborne, Member for the North-Western District (was Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands and Housing from December 1970 to 15th June 1972.)

Mr. J. S. Dublin, Member for the Windward District.

Mr. J. J. Weekes, Member for the Northern District.

Mr. J. C. Kelsick, Nominated Member.

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